

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A composition comprising a plurality of agglomerates comprising a polysaccharide component comprising xylose and arabinose, wherein the ratio of xylose to arabinose is at least about 3 : 1, by weight; wherein the composition further comprises:

- (i) optionally, a first surrounding layer which surrounds the agglomerates, wherein the first surrounding layer is a hydrophobic layer; and
- (ii) optionally, a second surrounding layer which surrounds the agglomerates, wherein the second surrounding layer is a hydrophilic layer;

wherein the composition comprises at least one of the first surrounding layer and the second surrounding layer, and wherein when the composition comprises the first surrounding layer and the second surrounding layer then the first surrounding layer is a preceding layer relative to the second surrounding layer

2. The composition according to Claim 1 wherein the agglomerates comprises from about 10% to about 90% of polysaccharide component, by weight of composition.

3. The composition according to Claim 1 wherein the agglomerates comprises from about 20% to about 50% of polysaccharide component, by weight of composition.

4. The composition according to Claim 1 wherein the agglomerates comprises from about 30% to about 70% of polysaccharide component, by weight of composition.

5. The composition according to Claim 1 wherein the agglomerates each, independently, comprise the first surrounding layer, wherein the first surrounding layer exhibits a water vapor transmission rate of less than about $200 \text{ mg} / \text{m}^2 / 24 \text{ hours}$.

6. The composition according to Claim 5 wherein the first surrounding layer exhibits a water vapor transmission rate of less than about $100 \text{ mg} / \text{m}^2 / 24 \text{ hours}$.

7. The composition according to Claim 6 wherein the first surrounding layer comprises a component selected from the group consisting of fatty acids, fatty acid derivatives, polymers, and mixtures thereof.

8. The composition according to Claim 1 wherein the agglomerates each, independently, comprise the second surrounding layer, wherein the second surrounding layer comprises a component selected from the group consisting of surfactants, gums, inorganic salts, and mixtures thereof.
9. The composition according to Claim 8 wherein the agglomerates each, independently, comprise the first surrounding layer.
10. The composition according to Claim 9 wherein the first surrounding layer exhibits a water vapor transmission rate of less than about $200 \text{ mg} / \text{m}^2 / 24 \text{ hours}$.
11. The composition according to Claim 10 wherein the first surrounding layer has a coating weight of from about $3 \text{ mg} / \text{cm}^2$ to about $25 \text{ mg} / \text{cm}^2$.
12. The composition according to Claim 8 wherein the first surrounding layer comprises a component selected from the group consisting of fatty acids, fatty acid derivatives, polymers, and mixtures thereof.
13. The composition according to Claim 8 wherein the mean particle size of the agglomerates is from about 100 microns to about 400 microns.
14. The composition according to Claim 8 wherein the ratio of xylose to arabinose is from about 3 : 1 to about 6 : 1, by weight.
15. The composition according to Claim 14 wherein the polysaccharide component further comprises a component selected from the group consisting of galactose, glucose, uronic acid, and mixtures thereof.
16. The composition according to Claim 15 wherein the agglomerates each, independently, comprise a dispersing component, wherein the dispersing component is selected from the group consisting of binders, suspending agents, edible acids, and mixtures thereof.
17. The composition according to Claim 16 wherein the dispersing component comprises maltodextrin.

18. The composition according to Claim 17 wherein the agglomerates each, independently, comprise an edible acid.

19. The composition according to Claim 18 wherein the edible acid is citric acid.

20. The composition according to Claim 16 comprising a starch, wherein the agglomerates and at least a portion of the starch are physically distinct.

21. The composition according to Claim 16 comprising a gum, wherein the agglomerates and at least a portion of the gum are physically distinct.

22. A method of providing a benefit selected from the group consisting of normalizing bowel function, inducing laxation, providing dietary fiber, reducing serum cholesterol levels, and combinations thereof, comprising orally administering a product comprising the composition according to Claim 1 to a mammal in need of the benefit.

23. The method according to Claim 22 comprising admixing the composition according to Claim 1 with an aqueous liquid to form the product.

24. A composition comprising a plurality of polysaccharide particles, wherein the polysaccharide particles comprise a polysaccharide component comprising xylose and arabinose, wherein the ratio of the xylose to the arabinose is at least about 3 : 1, by weight, and wherein the polysaccharide particles have a mean particle size distribution of from about 0.001 microns to about 150 microns, wherein the polysaccharide particles each, independently, comprise:

- (i) optionally, a first surrounding layer which surrounds the particle, wherein the first surrounding layer is a hydrophobic layer; and
- (ii) optionally, a second surrounding layer which surrounds the particle, wherein the second surrounding layer is a hydrophilic layer;

wherein the polysaccharide particles each, independently, comprise at least one of the first surrounding layer and the second surrounding layer, and wherein when the particle comprises the first surrounding layer and the second surrounding layer then the first surrounding layer is a preceding layer relative to the second surrounding layer.

25. The composition according to Claim 24 wherein the polysaccharide particles each, independently, comprise the first surrounding layer, wherein the first surrounding layer exhibits a water vapor transmission rate of less than about $200 \text{ mg} / \text{m}^2 / 24 \text{ hours}$.
26. The composition according to Claim 25 wherein the first surrounding layer exhibits a water vapor transmission rate of less than about $100 \text{ mg} / \text{m}^2 / 24 \text{ hours}$.
27. The composition according to Claim 26 wherein the first surrounding layer comprises a component selected from the group consisting of fatty acids, fatty acid derivatives, polymers, and mixtures thereof.
28. The composition according to Claim 24 wherein the polysaccharide particles each, independently, comprise the second surrounding layer, wherein the second surrounding layer comprises a component selected from the group consisting of surfactants, gums, inorganic salts, and mixtures thereof.
29. The composition according to Claim 28 wherein the polysaccharide particles each, independently, comprise the first surrounding layer.
30. The composition according to Claim 29 wherein the first surrounding layer exhibits a water vapor transmission rate of less than about $200 \text{ mg} / \text{m}^2 / 24 \text{ hours}$.
31. The composition according to Claim 30 wherein the first surrounding layer has a coating weight of from about $3 \text{ mg} / \text{cm}^2$ to about $25 \text{ mg} / \text{cm}^2$.
32. The composition according to Claim 28 wherein the first surrounding layer comprises a component selected from the group consisting of fatty acids, fatty acid derivatives, polymers, and mixtures thereof.
33. The composition according to Claim 28 wherein the mean particle size of the polysaccharide particles is from about 0.001 microns to about 150 microns.
34. The composition according to Claim 28 wherein the ratio of xylose to arabinose is from about 3 : 1 to about 6 : 1, by weight.

35. The composition according to Claim 34 wherein the polysaccharide component further comprises a component selected from the group consisting of galactose, glucose, uronic acid, and mixtures thereof.

36. The composition according to Claim 35 wherein the composition comprises a dispersing component, wherein the dispersing component is selected from the group consisting of binders, suspending agents, edible acids, and mixtures thereof.

37. The composition according to Claim 36 wherein the dispersing component comprises maltodextrin.

38. The composition according to Claim 37 wherein the dispersing component comprises an edible acid.

39. The composition according to Claim 38 wherein the edible acid is citric acid.

40. The composition according to Claim 36 wherein the dispersing component comprises a starch.

41. The composition according to Claim 40 wherein the dispersing component comprises a gum.

42. The composition according to Claim 36 comprising a plurality of agglomerates, wherein the agglomerates comprise at least a portion of the polysaccharide particles and at least a portion of the dispersing component.

43. A method of providing a benefit selected from the group consisting of normalizing bowel function, inducing laxation, providing dietary fiber, reducing serum cholesterol levels, and combinations thereof, comprising orally administering a product comprising the composition according to Claim 24 to a mammal in need of the benefit.

43. The method according to Claim 42 comprising admixing the composition according to Claim 24 with an aqueous liquid to form the product.